



North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Thursday, March 30, 2023 – 3:00 PM
Aeronautics Commission Conference Room
Bismarck, ND

Chair Kyle Humann called the meeting of the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission to order at 3:00 PM on Thursday, March 30, 2023.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

Kyle Humann, Chair
Kim Kenville, Member
Warren Pietsch, Member
Steve Blazek, Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Kyle Wanner, Director
Mike McHugh, Aviation Education Coordinator
Adam Dillin, Airport Planner
Grant Erwin, Airport Planner
Gaye Niemiller, Admin Officer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Shae Helling – Bismarck Aero Center – in person

Kyle H. called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and roll call was taken.

1/19/23 and 2/3/23 Meeting Minutes – Minutes approved as.

Review Financial Statements - Gaye reviewed the December 2022, January 2023, and February 2023 financial statements. No questions were raised.

NDAC Staff Activity Report – Kyle W. provided the Commission with information related to recent staff activities and he highlighted the following items:

- Kyle W. participated in a House Appropriations Committee working sessions to further review and discuss the NDAC budget – HB 1006 with the legislative appropriations committee. Kyle W. also attended the Legislative Hearings for SB 2330 and 2367. He also provided neutral testimony for SB 2367 to clarify the utilization of the state funding for matching and leveraging federal funds.
- Kyle, Adam, and Grant participated in a teleconference with the USDOT, ND congressional offices, and Jamestown/Devils Lake airports to discuss the current Essential Air Service situation.
- Adam provided an update on the Hillsboro grant that was approved at the February NDAC meeting.

- NDAC staff participated in the voting of Aviation Art contest participants. Discussion was made on coming up with a place to display the art.
- Janell attended the Tri-State Conference in Deadwood, SD and attended PAASS.
- Kyle attended the NASAO Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. During this trip, he also met with Senator Hoeven's office to discuss ND aviation priorities and issues. He also met with congressional staff members from the Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovations, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee to discuss FAA Reauthorization priorities. VANTIS also hosted a social event for the NASAO conference to continue to market the opportunities that may be available for other states to utilize the system in the near future.
- Kyle attended a NASAO Executive Board meeting and American Society of Association Executives (ASAE) "Exceptional Boards" training in Chicago.
- Grant attended 5010 airport inspector training in San Diego.

Legislative Updates – The ND Aeronautics Bill, HB 1006 passed the House side and should also be going to full senate floor shortly. The only major modifications to the bill have been changes to the salaries package and adding section four. This new section provides carry over appropriation for the \$5 million in Fiscal Recovery Funds that were previously provided in the special legislative session.

Kyle W. also updated the commission on all of the other bills that he was following that have impacts on aviation.

Aviation Education Grant Request – Mike explained the aviation education requests to the Commission.

EDU23-4 Minot Public Schools Grant – In June 2015, a grant was awarded for Minot to start a high school aviation program. The program is doing well and historically has had 60+ students with continual enrollment and interest. The computers that they utilize are now eight years old, and they are looking to update them. They are asking for assistance to upgrade the computers and have plans to reuse all other equipment. They are asking for 50% of the cost for MAC computers in the amount of \$8,100 to cover 18 computers. Kim moved to approve. Steve seconded. Kim – y, Warren – y, Steve – y, Kyle H. – y. Motion passed.

EDU23-5 – Bismarck Aviation Career Day – Shae from Bismarck Aero attended to speak to the Commission on this year's grant application regarding Bismarck's Career Day Event. Every year their Request to the Commission has been approved and the Commission remains very supportive of the program. Shae added that the knowledge of the ability for students to participate in aviation career day is really getting out to more people. Four new schools are planning to attend this year, and, as of today, 935 students, not including faculty and staff are planning to attend this year's event which will occur on May 10, 2023. Mike explained his support for this year's request and, also recommended that the Commission approve 100% of eligible funds instead of the 50% that they applied for. Kim moved to approve 100% of eligible expenses up to \$3,500. Steve seconded the motion. Kim – y, Warren – y, Steve – y, Kyle H. – y. Motion passed.

Fly-ND Aviation Conference/NDAA Update – Mike shared information about this year's conference that was held at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck. There were 330 attendees, and the exhibitor attendance was slightly down from prior years. After the conference, surveys were sent out to attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors. 50 surveys were completed and returned. There were good reviews of the

conference itself and the speakers and content, but there were not good reviews for the facility, Ramkota Hotel. From those results regarding the facility, other options will be looked at for the conference in Bismarck and further discussion will occur with NDAA. NDAC Director and staff hosted an Airport Authority Information and Training Session on Sunday, March 5, 2023. NDAC received exceptionally positive results and good feedback regarding that session. The next Fly-ND Conference is scheduled for March 3, 4, and 5th, 2024 in Grand Forks.

NDAA updates – They have hired a new executive director – Chelsey Benson. The board is planning to do a retreat to discuss issues that need to be talked about. More information will be shared once the Executive Director has been oriented with NDAA. Summerfest planning has been initiated with Bowman being selected as the unofficial location.

Additional updates provided by Mike - Kindred is on track to start face-to-face instruction in the fall of 2023. Drone racing is starting up around the state and is looking successful. The Bismarck program received donation of Redbird flight simulator which was moved over in earlier March.

One of the bills aligns ND scholarship with the Choice Ready framework. Students must meet essential skills and meet college, career or military ready. JORTC and civil air patrol have been added as pathways for a student to become military ready.

An update was also provided on the workforce development grant that we've been working with UND on. Teachers are taking a bus from Bismarck and additional teachers in Fargo and Alexandria will be picked up prior to going to Minneapolis. MSP will be the focus of this event and it will expose teachers to career field in aviation.

Starting April 10th there will be a digital option for the ND passport program using the AOPA app.

Old business – None

Commissioner portfolio reports – None

Other business –

Director Evaluation – Chair Kyle H. reported that this is the year to conduct the 360° performance evaluation for Kyle W. Kyle H. and Kim will be working on an evaluation survey and will be sending it out to NDAC staff, Commissioners, and other leaders in the aviation community. Results will be shared with Kyle W. upon his in-person performance evaluation in the near future.

The next in-person Commission meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1st beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the NDAC Conference room.

The annual Grant Meeting will be held at the Bismarck Airport Terminal on Thursday, June 15th, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Agenda and information on that meeting will follow.

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.